

**The United States History to 1865**  
HIS 211-02  
Fall 2014, TR 11:00-12:15, MHRA 1215

Instructor: Brian E. Lee

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Office Hours: Tuesday 10:00-11:00

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**Course Description**

This course is a general survey of American history from colonization through the Civil War. We will focus on American definitions of freedom and how the American understanding of freedom has changed throughout our history. We will examine how politics, the economy, foreign policy, American society and culture have helped to shape and were shaped by how Americans understood what freedom would mean in their everyday lives and the nation's role in the world. If we are a nation built on the ideas of liberty and equality, what does that mean and how does it affect the everyday lives of Americans?

**Student Learning Objectives**

General Education Student Learning Objectives

Categories: Historical Perspectives (GHP)

1. Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives.
2. Use evidence to interpret the past coherently, orally and/or in writing.

**Course Student Learning Objectives**

1. Students will be able to trace the major themes and events of American history up to 1865.
2. Students will be able to use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view.
3. Students will be able to construct a historical argument using primary sources and support a thesis statement in a short essay.
4. Students will improve their ability to articulate their ideas both orally and in written form.

**Course Readings**

- Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty!: An American History, Volume 1, From 1865*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2014 (available at the college bookstore).
- Eric Foner, *Voices of Freedom: A Documentary History, Volume 1*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2014 (excerpts available on Blackboard).

**Grades**

- Exams (3): 60%. The course is divided into three units. Therefore, there will be three equally weighted exams – each 20% of one's overall grade. The exams will consist of objective questions to quiz your grasp of key concepts and actors, and subjective questions to test your critical analysis. The objective questions will derive from class notes and the subjective questions from class discussions.

- Paper (1): 20%. Students will be given a writing prompt two weeks prior to the paper's deadline (see course schedule below for due dates). The essay must include an introductory paragraph with a thesis statement, at least three body paragraphs that support the thesis, a conclusion, and endnotes. The evidence to support your thesis must come from the two assigned textbooks (no outside sources, specifically internet sources, should be used). The papers must be typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spaced, and with standard margins. A grading rubric and more specific instructions will be posted on Blackboard. In addition, you must follow the [Academic Integrity Policy](#) or face disciplinary measures. Late papers will receive a ten-point deduction for every calendar day beyond the due date.

- Quizzes (10-13): 20%. Students will be given quizzes on the course readings throughout the semester. Students can prepare for this assessment by reading the unit study guide that is posted on Blackboard, which provides the student learning objectives and identifications. The quizzes will be given promptly at the start of class and CANNOT be made up. To earn full credit it is recommended that assignments are read prior to class and to attend all classes.

- Class Participation: Although this class is in a lecture setting and you will have dozens of classmates, you are expected to participate in class discussions. To ensure that you are best engaged and not a distraction to others, there will be a NO TECHNOLOGY policy, meaning that laptops, cell phones, and other non-life sustaining electronic devices will be prohibited. Violation of this policy will result in a recorded absence and a request for you to leave the classroom.

- Attendance: All students are expected to attend all class meetings and be to class on time. A sign in sheet will be distributed at the beginning of class to record attendance. Students that arrive late will be marked absent. It is reasonable to expect that illness or other unexpected events will cause you to miss a class on occasion. A student may miss two (2) classes without penalty. However, each additional absence will result in a drop of 1/3 of a letter grade from your overall course grade.

### Course Schedule

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic/Reading Assignment</b>
1	8/19	<b>A New World</b> <i>Give Me Liberty!</i> Ch. 1 <i>Voices of Freedom</i> , Ch. 1
	8/21	
2	8/26	<b>Beginnings of English America, 1607-1660</b> <i>Give Me Liberty!</i> Ch. 2 <i>Voices of Freedom</i> , Ch. 2
	8/28	

- 3     9/2    **Creating Anglo-America, 1660-1750**  
           *Give Me Liberty!* Ch. 3  
           *Voices of Freedom*, Ch. 3
- 9/4
- 4     9/9    **Slavery, Freedom, and the Struggle for Empire, to 1763**  
           *Give Me Liberty!* Ch. 4  
           *Voices of Freedom*, Ch. 4
- 9/11
- 5     9/16   **The American Revolution**  
           *Give Me Liberty!* Ch. 5  
           *Voices of Freedom*, Ch. 5
- 9/18
- 6     9/23   **\*\*\*Exam #1\*\*\***
- 9/25   **The Revolution Within**  
           *Give Me Liberty!* Ch. 6  
           *Voices of Freedom*, Ch. 6
- 7     9/30
- 10/2   **Founding a Nation, 1783-1791**  
           *Give Me Liberty!* Ch. 7  
           *Voices of Freedom*, Ch. 7
- 8     10/7
- 10/9   **Securing the Republic, 1791-1815**  
           *Give Me Liberty!* Ch. 8  
           *Voices of Freedom*, Ch. 8
- 9     10/14   **No Class – Fall Break**
- 10/16
- 10    10/21   **The Market Revolution, 1800-1840**  
           *Give Me Liberty!* Ch. 9  
           *Voices of Freedom*, Ch. 9

- 10/23 **Democracy in America, 1815-1840**  
*Give Me Liberty!* Ch. 10  
*Voices of Freedom*, Ch. 10
- 11 10/28
- 10/30 **\*\*\*Exam #2\*\*\***
- 12 11/4 **The Peculiar Institution**  
*Give Me Liberty!* Ch. 11  
*Voices of Freedom*, Ch. 11
- 11/6 **An Age of Reform, 1820-1840**  
*Give Me Liberty!* Ch. 12  
*Voices of Freedom*, Ch. 12
- 13 11/11 **A House Divided, 1840-1861**  
*Give Me Liberty!* Ch. 13  
*Voices of Freedom*, Ch. 13
- 11/13
- 14 11/18 **A New Birth of Freedom: The Civil War, 1861-1865**  
*Give Me Liberty!* Ch. 1  
*Voices of Freedom*, Ch. 1
- 11/20
- 15 11/25 **\*\*\*Paper Due\*\*\***
- 11/27 **No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday**
- 16 12/2 **No Class – Reading Day**
- 17 12/4 **No Class – Reading Day**
- 18 12/9 **\*\*\*Exam #3\*\*\* 12:00-3:00pm**